

### Remarks

At the beginning of this application's examination, the Examiner performed a search based upon the original claims. From the first office action to the present, Hull has been the primary reference cited against the present invention. Other references were cited in combination with Hull. Claims were cancelled, amended, and an election was required because of the original and subsequent searches performed by the Examiner, but Hull remained the primary reference cited against this application, with other art cited in combination with Hull.

In reviewing the pertinent priority date for the present application and previously cited art, it is noted that the present application appropriately claims priority of German Patent Application DE 199 33 248.7, filed on July 15, 1999.

Hull was filed on March 1, 2000. Therefore, Hull is NOT prior art.

Foreign priority was claimed on the basis of DE 199 33 248.7 in the originally filed Inventors' Declaration. DE 199 33 248.7 was also acknowledged as prior art in the filing receipt for the present application. Applicant has amended the specification to refer to the German priority Patent Application in the preamble of the specification.

Applicant's attorney had a discussion with the Examiner regarding the priority date of the present application in comparison with Hull, and the Examiner stated that Hull was rightfully considered prior art because Applicant did not perfect the priority claim by submitting a certified priority document for DE 199 33 248.7. Applicant has requested a certified priority document, but it will not be available until the beginning of January, 2006. Applicant will submit the certified priority document as soon as it is received from the German Patent Office.

If Applicant returns to the original claims, which resulted in Hull being cited or other art being cited when combined with Hull, Applicant respectfully and adamantly maintains that the claims, as originally filed, should be allowable, because the initial search revealed Hull as the primary rejection and other art in combination with Hull. It would not be reasonable for the Examiner to conduct a new search based on the original claims, because the Examiner already conducted a search in relation to those claims and cited the prior art references upon which rejection of the claims was based. Further, during the course of examination, the claims continued to be rejected primarily on the basis of Hull or Hull in combination with Hull.

The claims have been amended, cancelled, and withdrawn from consideration by election through-out the course of this examination procedure when making amendments to the claims and presenting arguments to overcome Hull as the primary reference. Applicant respectfully believes that the claims currently under examination have been unnecessarily altered to deal with prior art that was not even prior art.

New claims 43 through 56 are substantially the original claims, with the following changes: In claim 43, “wherein the mounting (15, 115) comprises” has been deleted and replaced with the word “and” (line 5). Also, claim 2 and 15 have been cancelled.

**With Hull no longer being prior art, it is respectfully believed that the claims of the present application should be allowable.**

Wherefore, further consideration and allowance of the claims without a new search is requested upon submission of the Certified Priority Document, which will be submitted as soon as it can be received from the German Patent Office.

A three-month extension of time in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action is hereby requested. PTO-2038 authorizing credit card payment for the amount of \$1,020 is enclosed for the prescribed Large Entity three-month extension fee, as well as an additional claims fee of \$200 for one additional independent claim fee and \$150 for three additional dependent claims in excess of twenty-two (two were paid for previously, therefore there is only an additional fee due for three additional claims in excess of twenty), for a total of \$1370 to be charged to the credit card.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 16, 2005.



M. Robert Kestenbaum